

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1, 3-10, 12-19, and 21-33 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 34-42, as indicted below. The following is a complete listing of the claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. - 33. (cancelled).

34. (new) A communication apparatus including a facsimile communication unit adapted to perform facsimile communication on a line switching network and an Internet Protocol (IP) communication unit, transmit communication data to a communication partner station discriminated by a telephone number, and receive communication data from the communication partner station, the apparatus comprising:

an IP address obtaining unit adapted to obtain an IP address of the communication partner station from a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) proxy server, based on a telephone number of the communication partner station; and

a control unit adapted to establish a Voice over IP (VoIP) communication channel on an IP network according to the IP address of the communication partner station obtained by the IP address obtaining unit, and to transmit an image transmission request message prior to transmission of image data,

wherein, based on an image transmission permission message received from the communication partner station, in response to the image transmission request message, in a case where transmission of communication data on the IP network based on a predetermined file

transmission protocol can be performed, the control unit starts transmission of the image data between the communication apparatus and the communication partner station on the IP network based on the predetermined file transmission protocol using the obtained IP address of the communication partner station, and, in a case where transmission of the communication data on the IP network based on the predetermined file transmission protocol cannot be performed, the control unit causes the facsimile communication unit to start transmission of the image data using analog facsimile communication via the VoIP communication channel,

and wherein, based on the image transmission permission message received from the communication partner station, in response to the image transmission request message, in a case where reception of the communication data on the IP network based on a predetermined file reception protocol can be performed, the control unit starts reception of the image data between the communication apparatus and the communication partner station on the IP network based on the predetermined file reception protocol using the obtained IP address of the communication partner station, and, in a case where reception of the communication data on the IP network based on the predetermined file reception protocol cannot be performed, the control unit causes the facsimile communication unit to start reception of the image data using analog facsimile communication via the VoIP communication channel.

35. (new) The communication apparatus according to Claim 34,

wherein the IP address obtaining unit judges whether a communication can be performed with the communication partner station via the VoIP communication channel, by interpreting the telephone number of the communication partner station, and

wherein, in a case where the communication cannot be performed with the communication partner station via the VoIP communication channel, the IP address obtaining unit calls the communication partner station on the line switching network and causes the facsimile communication unit to perform analog facsimile communication.

36. (new) The communication apparatus according to Claim 34,

wherein the IP address obtaining unit judges whether a communication can be performed with the communication partner station via the VoIP communication channel, by interpreting the telephone number of the communication partner station, and

wherein, in a case where the communication can be performed with the communication partner station via the VoIP communication channel, the IP address obtaining unit tries to obtain the IP address of the communication partner station from the SIP proxy server.

37. (new) A control method for a communication apparatus that includes a facsimile communication unit adapted to perform facsimile communication on a line switching network and an Internet Protocol (IP) communication unit, transmit communication data to a communication partner station discriminated by a telephone number, and receive communication data from the communication partner station, the control method comprising:

obtaining an IP address of a communication partner station from a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) proxy server, based on the telephone number of the communication partner station; and

establishing a Voice over IP (VoIP) communication channel on an IP network

according to the IP address of the communication partner station obtained by the IP address obtaining step, and transmitting an image transmission request message prior to transmission of image data,

wherein, based on an image transmission permission message received from the communication partner station, in response to the image transmission request message, in a case where transmission of the communication data on the IP network based on a predetermined file transmission protocol can be performed, transmission of the image data between the communication apparatus and the communication partner station on the IP network is started based on the predetermined file transmission protocol using the obtained IP address of the communication partner station, and, in a case where transmission of the communication data on the IP network based on the predetermined file transmission protocol cannot be performed, the facsimile communication unit is caused to start transmission of the image data by using analog facsimile communication via the VoIP communication channel,

and wherein, based on the image transmission permission message received from the communication partner station, in response to the image transmission request message, in a case where reception of the communication data on the IP network based on a predetermined file reception protocol can be performed, reception of the image data between the communication apparatus and the communication partner station on the IP network is started based on the predetermined file reception protocol by using the obtained IP address of the communication partner station, and, in a case where reception of the communication data on the IP network based on the predetermined file reception protocol cannot be performed, the facsimile communication unit is caused to start receiving the image data by using analog facsimile

communication via the VoIP communication channel.

38. (new) The control method according to Claim 37,

wherein it is judged whether a communication can be performed with the communication partner station via the VoIP communication channel, by interpreting the telephone number of the communication partner station, and

wherein, in a case where the communication cannot be performed with the communication partner station via the VoIP communication channel, the communication partner station is called on the line switching network and the facsimile communication unit is caused to perform analog facsimile communication.

39. (new) The control method according to Claim 37,

wherein it is judged whether a communication can be performed with the communication partner station via the VoIP communication channel, by interpreting the telephone number of the communication partner station, and

wherein, in a case where the communication can be performed with the communication partner station via the VoIP communication channel, the communication apparatus tries to obtain the IP address of the communication partner station from the SIP proxy server.

40. (new) A computer-usable medium having control logic stored therein for causing a communication apparatus to implement a control method, wherein the communication apparatus

includes a facsimile communication unit adapted to perform facsimile communication on a line switching network and an Internet Protocol (IP) communication unit, transmit communication data to a communication partner station discriminated by a telephone number, and receive communication data from the communication partner station, the control method comprising:

an IP address obtaining step of obtaining an IP address of the communication partner station from a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) proxy server, based on the telephone number of the communication partner station; and

a control step of establishing a Voice over IP (VoIP) communication channel on an IP network according to the IP address of the communication partner station obtained by the IP address obtaining unit, and of transmitting an image transmission request message prior to transmission of image data,

wherein, based on an image transmission permission message received from the communication partner station, in response to the image transmission request message, in a case where transmission of the communication data on the IP network based on a predetermined file transmission protocol can be performed, the control step starts transmission of the image data between the communication apparatus and the communication partner station on the IP network based on the predetermined file transmission protocol using the obtained IP address of the communication partner station, and, in a case where transmission of the communication data on the IP network based on the predetermined file transmission protocol cannot be performed, the control step causes the facsimile communication unit to start transmission of the image data using analog facsimile communication via the VoIP communication channel, and

wherein, based on the image transmission permission message received from the

communication partner station, in response to the image transmission request message, in a case where reception of the communication data on the IP network based on a predetermined file reception protocol can be performed, the control step starts reception of the image data between the communication apparatus and the communication partner station on the IP network based on the predetermined file reception protocol by using the obtained IP address of the communication partner station, and, in a case where reception of the communication data on the IP network based on the predetermined file reception protocol cannot be performed, the control step causes the facsimile communication unit to start reception of the image data by using analog facsimile communication via the VoIP communication channel.

41. (new) The computer-usable medium according to Claim 40,

wherein the IP address obtaining step judges whether a communication can be performed with the communication partner station via the VoIP communication channel, by interpreting the telephone number of the communication partner station, and

wherein, in a case where the communication cannot be performed with the communication partner station via the VoIP communication channel, the IP address obtaining step calls the communication partner station on the line switching network and causes the facsimile communication unit to perform analog facsimile communication.

42. (new) The computer-usable medium according to Claim 40,

wherein the IP address obtaining step judges whether a communication can be performed with the communication partner station via the VoIP communication channel, by

interpreting the telephone number of the communication partner station, and

wherein, in a case where the communication can be performed with the communication partner station via the VoIP communication channel, the IP address obtaining step tries to obtain the IP address of the communication partner station from the SIP proxy server.